

Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Taskforce (SBCHTTF)

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Program is grateful to submit this proposal for **OVC FY 2019 Direct Services to Support Victims of Human Trafficking, Purpose Area 1: Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking (OVC-2019-15590), Focus Area 3: Comprehensive Services and Partnership with Enhanced Collaborative Model Human Trafficking Task Forces**. We request \$900,000. This project is in coordination with the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office who applied for BJA FY 2019 funding and will support our Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force (SBCHTTF).

Santa Barbara County is a diverse southern California county, covering 2,700 square miles, with a population of 435,000. Santa Barbara County is located along the coast between San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, three cities among top 12 with the highest substantive calls about human trafficking and issues related to human trafficking (National Human Trafficking Hotline). Santa Barbara County's robust agricultural economy, popular tourist destination with many restaurants, hotels/motels, and recent receipt of 5,600 licenses for cannabis cultivation afford conditions known for labor trafficking.

During 2017 and 2018 (when Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Program and Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office received FY16 Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking funds), 87 survivors of human trafficking were identified - 82 females (48 adults, 34 minors) and 5 males (2 adults, 3 minors). There were 75 sex trafficking survivors, five labor trafficking survivors, two survivors of both forms of trafficking and 5 survivors where type of trafficking was not disclosed. Prior to this period (2014 – 2016) there were 7 survivors of sex trafficking identified.

OVC funding opportunity will provide \$900,000 dedicated to Victim Services through the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program. Funding will allow for expert victim advocates and Rape Crisis advocates to provide critical comprehensive victim services and a countywide 24/7 resource to identify and enlist appropriate services for adult and minor, female and male, and domestic and international trafficking victims. Funds will also support needed training and public awareness efforts (including social media presence) that have shown essential in improved victim identification efforts. Furthermore, grant funding will build upon early efforts to collect, share and analyze data towards making data and evidence-based system decisions and improvements.